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Friday, March 7, 2008

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Togiola says new federal minimum wage law will “wipe out” territory’s past growth

Governor Togiola Tulafono says that American Samoa has enjoyed a fairly healthy economic growth over the last 30 years. However, with the new federal minimum wage law in place, the territory faces losing the canneries and nearly 8,000 jobs – something he says “would wipe out most of that past growth.”

Togiola recently departed Washington DC after attending a week of meetings which included the Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) chaired by Interior Secretary Pulelei’ite Dirk Kempthorne. After the IGIA on Tuesday, Togiola expressed, through a letter to Kempthorne, his sincere gratitude to the DOI Secretary “for his inspiring leadership and personal commitment” to American Samoa and the territories.

“I wholeheartedly agree that your experience as Governor of Idaho gives you great insight into the challenges that the Territorial Governors face as stewards of often disadvantaged and overlooked populations,” the Governor wrote. “In addition, I wish to extend my sincerest appreciation for your recent visit to our islands for a first hand look at the Samoan experience. I look forward to working closely with you to ensure improved services, coordination, and communications between the Territory of American Samoa and the federal agencies on important matters concerning insular affairs.”

Critical issues that were presented at the meeting included the federal minimum wage, trade education at the American Samoa Community College, combined health services, and increased federal participation in long-term economic development. Additional matters presented were cabotage, emergency visa waiver procedures, territorial participation in regional organizations, and trade agreements. According to Togiola, congressional action on the federal minimum wage dramatically raised the minimum wage in the Insular Areas - action he says was taken before any in-depth consideration of the possible consequences on the territories.

“Fortunately, our congressional delegate and others in Congress had included in the bill language to have the US Department of Labor study the economic effects of those increases with a view toward possible reconsideration of the extent of those increases,” Togiola said. “In their report the US Department of Labor cited our work on the economic impacts of the canneries from a study we have just completed,” Togiola added.

According to the Governor, the economic devastation would be exacerbated by rising prices and costs from arbitrary increases in the minimum wage in other industries. He explained that transportation, energy and utility costs would rise because the canneries would no longer be available to share those costs. “Important as they are, these costs would pale in comparison with the job and income losses,” Togiola said, adding that replacing the escalating clauses for American Samoa with wage measurements that are based on our local economic conditions would ensure that we maintain our cannery industry, while meeting the needs of our workers and businesses.

“American Samoa stands ready to work with the Department of Interior on all of these issues,” Togiola concluded.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov or

Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

Governor Togiola Tulafono attends meeting for Interagency Group on Insular Areas

Governor Togiola Tulafono is in Washington DC to attend several meetings and functions, including the federal Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) meeting chaired by Interior Secretary Pulelei'ite Dirk Kempthorne.

The IGIA is a White House-led group that works with island governments to mitigate the impact of federal laws, regulations, and policies on the US insular territories in the Pacific and Caribbean.

Togiola was joined by Guam's Governor Felix Camacho and Governor Benigno Fitial of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Also in attendance were Congresswoman Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo of Guam, CNMI resident representative for the Pete A. Tenorio, Interior deputy chief of staff Doug Domenech, and acting deputy assistant secretary for Insular Affairs Nikolao Pula, who represented the Office of the Secretary and the Office of Insular Affairs, respectively.

Fifteen federal agencies including the Departments of State, Health and Human Services, Energy, Justice, Defense, Homeland Security, Offices of the U.S. Trade Representative, and Small Business Administration were represented at the meeting.

According to Governor Togiola, the island leaders addressed a wide range of issues, which included boosting community college capacity for training in American Samoa.

"I am very thankful that we were able to address the need for assistance at our American Samoa Community College, and the ability of ASCC to accomplish our very important objective of student learning," Togiola said. "Boosting capacity is the key to making progress in improving student learning and that includes, and not limited to, training and professional development from outside assistance. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Secretary Pulelei'ite Kempthorne for demonstrating his commitment as head of DOI and IGIA to assist us and ASCC."

Other issues discussed during the meeting included policies on Earned Income Tax Credit, federal Medicaid and supplemental security income, visa waiver programs, postal rates to the U.S. Virgin Islands, geothermal energy potential in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and partnering with hospital associations in the U.S. mainland, the planned U.S. military expansion on Guam, health care, and the application of federal immigration, wage, and tax laws in the islands.

Secretary Kempthorne said that the U.S. island territories occupy a critically important part of the world and the patriotism of the citizens there affirms their valued membership in the American family.

The Secretary visited American Samoa and all U.S. island territories including the Freely Associated States in the Pacific last June, and he intends to visit the U.S. Virgin Islands later this year in April. While in American Samoa, Kempthorne was bestowed the chiefly title "Pulelei'ite," meaning "the ruler who can foretell the future."

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On March 1, 1606, Swains Island was sighted by Spanish navigator Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, who named it "*Gente Hermosa*."

On March 1, 1915, Commander John Martin Poyer, U.S. Navy, Retired, relieved Lieutenant Charles Armijo Woodruff and took office as American Samoa's 11th naval governor (until June 10, 1919). Poyer was American Samoa's longest-serving naval governor, spending four years, two months and ten days in office. He and Captain Henry Francis Bryan, the Territory's 16th naval governor (March 17, 1925-September 9, 1927), were the only two governors who had retired from the U.S. Navy prior to their gubernatorial terms.

On March 1, 1922, Captain Edwin Taylor Pollock succeeded Captain Waldo Evans, and became American Samoa's 14th naval governor (until September 4, 1923).

On March 1, 1953, Captain Allen Hobbs, American Samoa's 30th naval governor (February 8, 1944-January 27, 1945) "was relieved of all active duty and placed on the Temporary Disability Retirement List."

On March 2, 1872, Commander Richard W. Meade, USN and Mauga Manuma of Pago Pago signed the first American-Samoan treaty at Gagamoe Stream in Pago Pago. This treaty gave the United States the exclusive right to establish a coaling station for its fleet in Pago Pago Harbor. Although it was never ratified by the U.S. Senate, the Samoans considered it "binding."

On March 2, 1889, the U.S. Congress appropriated "the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of permanently establishing a station for coal and other supplies for the naval and commercial marine of the United States on the shores of the Bay of Pago Pago, Samoa, in pursuance of the rights acquired by the Treaty of 1878." (This was in reference to the Mamea-Evarts treaty signed on January 17, 1878).

On March 3, 1933, Western Samoa's Chief Judge, John Luxford, found *Mau* leader O.F. Nelson guilty of sedition, and sentenced him to eight months in jail and ten years in exile. He was immediately taken to Vaimea Jail.

On March 4, 1912, the first American Samoan Hospital was opened at Malaloa, Tutuila. (Many years later, it was called the "Annex" and served as ASG housing).

On March 4, 1925, Swains Island (also known as Gente Hermosa, Quiros Island, Olosega, Olohenga and Jennings Island) was annexed by the U.S. Congress under the provisions of Public Resolution No. 75, 68th Congress) and became part of American Samoa.

On March 4, 1953, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay appointed Lawrence McCully Judd, a former Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, as American Samoa's fourth appointed civil governor (until August 5, 1953).

On March 5, 1903, Commander Edmund Beardsley Underwood was appointed fourth naval governor of American Samoa, relieving Lieutenant Commander Henry Minett (until January 30, 1905).

On March 5, 1973, "Bishop Pio Taofinu'u was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Paul VI, becoming the first ever Cardinal in the Pacific Islands. He had also been the first Polynesian bishop in history."

National Governors Association 100th Anniversary Meeting

Governor Togiola Tulafono was able to join the nation's governors in a special celebration commemorating the National Governors Association's (NGA) 100th anniversary during a recent trip to the Nation's Capital.

A century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt hosted the first meeting of the nation's governors at the White House. In the years that followed, governors decided to form an association through which they could come together to discuss mutual concerns and act collectively.

The annual governors' meeting began in 1908 and one hundred years later, the NGA continues to serve as the collective voice of the nation's governors.

Togiola said that for an organization such as NGA to be around for a century is a major accomplishment for all governors of the states, territories and two commonwealths; and the NGA meeting is a venue for governors to share their thoughts and views on common challenges.

He explained, "This is a great forum to propose programs and initiatives as well see existing and hear about current efforts being shared on education, health, and awareness programs on many social and community issues that we can pursue as a territory."

Togiola said that there is a great deal to learn from other governors as they share ideas and discuss the challenges that each of them face, respectfully.

"It is a positive and productive exchange for governors in hearing the thoughts and proposed solutions of issues from other governors," he remarked.

The NGA meeting included a meeting with President Bush, members of the Administration, business executives, and other experts who came together to discuss a host of issues and challenges facing the states.

"It was a good meeting with the President. This is always a great opportunity for the governors to go to the White House, not only to hear from the President, but to make their case on the growing demands of their states," Togiola said. "The meeting allows the governors to carry a coordinated message to the President."

After the almost two-hour meeting, which included the presence of the President's top advisors, Togiola and the other governors posed with President Bush for the 100th anniversary photo on the North Portico steps of the White House.

The NGA Winter Meeting will conclude with a reception for the centennial celebration at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The Summer Meeting is scheduled to be held in Philadelphia later this year in July.

White House Dinner

President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura hosted a White House dinner for the governors and their spouses who attended the National Governor's Association's 100th anniversary celebration.

Governor Togiola said he and the First Lady always look forward to the White House gathering to meet and hear the President address the nation's governors.

"It is truly a great opportunity for all the governors to meet with the President, and even more important this year because it is the 100th anniversary of the National Governors Association," said Togiola. "President Bush expressed his appreciation to all the governors and said that he values what governors do. He said it was in that spirit that Teddy Roosevelt hosted the first governors meeting at the White House 100 years ago, where they could come together to discuss their mutual concerns and act collectively."

Entertainment for the dinner was provided by country music recording stars Vince Gill and Amy Grant.

Department of Health issues alert for measles

The Department of Health has issued a measles alert for American Samoa. The alert comes after two cases of measles were reported in the Aloha State. According to DOH, a child traveling to Honolulu from San Diego on board Hawaiian Airlines was reportedly exposed to a confirmed case of measles. Off island news reports state that San Diego officials have been trying to make contact with an estimated 250 passengers on board the same Feb. 9 flight, people who may have been exposed to the child.

DOH medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau told the Tapuitema that there have been two cases of measles reported from the island of Oahu, and the concern is due to the fact that local residents frequently travel to and from Hawaii.

Tuliau said that the best way to protect youngsters from contacting measles is by ensuring that all the kids are up to date with their immunization shots, specifically the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) shot. The alert notice recommends that all persons 12 months and older get their MMR shot. DOH stresses that measles is extremely contagious, with 90% or more of exposed susceptible persons becoming infected. Symptoms of measles include a high fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, and a rash.

DOH offers free immunizations at its district health center and it is strongly recommended that parents visit one of the health centers if their child has not yet been vaccinated against measles. The last time DOH issued a measles advisory was in 2006 following a measles outbreak in Fiji. Suspected cases of measles should be reported to DOH's Yolanda Masunu-Faleafaga at 633-5318/699-8464.

DPS adds four brand new SUVs to their fleet

Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety Filifa'atali Mike Fuiava took possession of four new Chevy Tahoe sport utility vehicles from Chief Procurement Officer Laau M. Seui today during a brief presentation ceremony held at the Procurement compound in Tafuna.

The new black vehicles, which amounted to a little over \$100,000 were funded with money collected from traffic violation citations issued by the Department of Public Safety and enforced by the Judiciary.

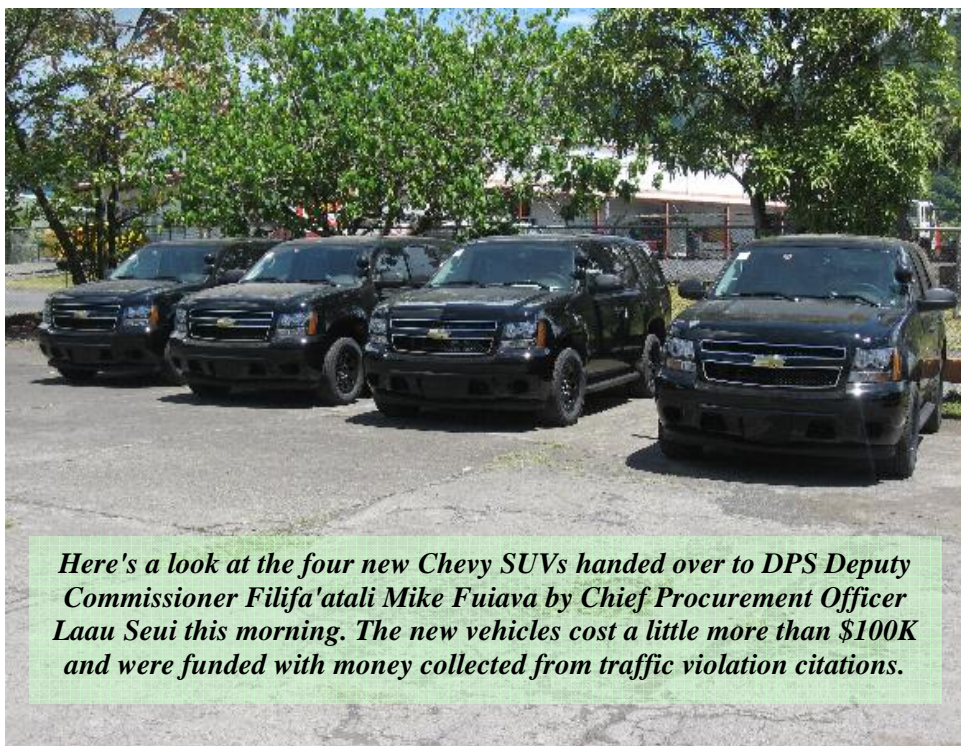
Seui began by expressing his gratitude to Governor Togiola Tulafono "for his strong support." The CPO then presented the keys to Filifa'atali who spoke on behalf of Police Commissioner Sotoa Savali.

Filifa'atali went down the list of those he wanted to recognize, beginning with the Judiciary whom he said contributed to the purchase of the vehicles by collecting the fines imposed on traffic citations. He also thanked the local Legislature who approved the purchase of the vehicles, Governor Togiola for supporting the request, and CPO Seui for seeing it through.

"This was not an easy thing to do," Filifa'atali explained. "But it was through the combined efforts of everyone involved that this day has become a reality."

Filifa'atali said the new vehicles were requested so police officers can better serve the public and perform their jobs. He praised the speedy arrival of the vehicles, saying that going through a similar process would usually take up to 60 days but in this case, "everything was done expeditiously."

He concluded, "These are not cheap cars. We hope to use them to the fullest and I urge our local police officers to take extra care of and maintain the new vehicles. We need these vehicles to serve the people and perform what the public demands. We anticipate using the new cars for the purpose of serving the people and government of American Samoa."



Here's a look at the four new Chevy SUVs handed over to DPS Deputy Commissioner Filifa'atali Mike Fuiava by Chief Procurement Officer Laau Seui this morning. The new vehicles cost a little more than \$100K and were funded with money collected from traffic violation citations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

In accordance with American Samoa Code Annotated ("ASCA") § 4.1004, notice is hereby given that the American Samoa Power Authority ("ASPA") intends to adopt interconnection and net energy metering laws (the "Policy"), to be codified in American Samoa Administrative Code ("ASAC") § 12.06, on or about March 11, 2008. The Policy shall become effective on April 2, 2008.

The Policy pertains to the interconnection of renewable energy generating facilities between ASPA and its customers. ASPA encourages the use of renewable energy technologies and renewable generating facilities, and has adopted these rules to make the process of interconnecting as simple and economical as possible, as well as to protect ASPA's electrical facilities from harm or damage.

In accordance with ASCA § 4.1020, the Policy may be inspected during normal business hours at ASPA's Satala office. Interested persons may submit written data, views and/or arguments on the amendments by U.S. Mail or hand delivery to the following address:

***American Samoa Power Authority
Attn: Michael Keyser, CEO
Satala Office
P.O. Box PPB
Pago Pago, AS 96799***

Additionally, a public hearing on the Policy will be held at the ASPA Tafuna Power Generation conference room on March 6, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at which time all interested persons may submit data, views and arguments orally or in writing. The comment period shall expire and no further written submissions shall be accepted after the date of the public hearing. All written and oral submissions shall become public information upon receipt by ASPA and shall become part of the rulemaking docket.

ASPA Management

Expenditures exceed revenue but cash collections increase in several ASG departments

The American Samoa Government spent more than what it collected in local funds last month but nonetheless, certain departments and agencies increased their cash collections last month compared to the same time last year.

According to the Treasury Monthly Financial Overview Report for local funds submitted to the Governor's Office from ASG Treasurer Gaea Perefoti Failautusi, for every \$1 received in January 2008, approximately \$1.15 was spent.

Actual revenues totaled \$6,627,589 while total expenditures amounted to \$7,626,104.

The overrun was due largely to shortfalls in collections from the Revenue Office, the Tax Office, Immigration Bonds, Legal Affairs, Parks and Recreation, the Judicial Branch, Administrative Services, the Sports Complex, Road Maintenance, Port Administration, PFC, and the Airport.

However, there were increases in collections from a few ASG departments like the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) which went from collecting \$44,273 in January 2007 to \$63,005 last month.

Other notable collections came from Workmen's Compensation which upped their collections from \$60,343 last January to \$95,294 the same time this year.

The Department of Health and the Traffic Violation Division soared above the rest, bringing in \$5,595 and \$5,455, respectively, compared to last January when neither one collected a penny.

The LBJ loan brought in the same amount it did last year - approximately \$91,667 - while no income was collected from Property Management, the Election Office, Weights and Measures, interest income, Public Works, the EPA trust fund, the Flag Day fund, ASTCA, and bonds reduction.

Departments and agencies that managed to increase their cash collections to open up the New Year are as follows:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Immigration Office	\$ 163,076	\$ 131,502
Procurement	\$ 10,012	\$ 9,941
Agriculture	\$ 26,351	\$ 20,690
Public Safety	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,283
Vital Statistics	\$ 5,902	\$ 5,719
Attorney General's Office	\$ 26,815	\$ 12,790
Administrative Law Office	\$ 100	\$ 50
Tax Reserve	\$ 641,665	\$ 636,124
Grants Fund	\$ 136,882	\$ 103,635
Customs	\$2,052,809	\$1,836,186
Customs bond collections	\$ 217,911	\$ 208,188
Port	\$ 286,532	\$ 128,688

Despite the increase in cash collections from the list above, overall, cash collections for January 2008 (\$6,627,589) had dropped compared to the \$7,075,080 that was collected the year before in January 2007.

DOH Environmental Health Division conducting store and piggery inspections

The Environmental Health Division of the Department of Health is out and about inspecting local stores for expired food items and checking for violations in piggery operations. The three-member team, headed by Sigafili Leiato, includes Onosa'i Aulava and Arona Lefiti. The team is currently conducting walk-throughs in Pago Pago where citations are being issued to owners whose piggeries are located less than 50 feet away from private residences and streams. Anyone found to be in violation is issued a citation that requires them to appear in the District Court. It is the court who will decide whether or not to fine the piggery owner or force them to shut down, or both.

With regards to store inspections, Aulava said their team has confiscated numerous expired food items from different stores across the island, pulling them off the shelves for safety reasons. All items confiscated are recorded, photographed, and disposed of at the Futiga landfill. Store owners need to exercise caution when selling edible items as the health and safety of local residents are at risk. "Local consumers can help us by reporting any stores where expired items are being sold," Aulava said. He reminds everyone that food items need to be thoroughly inspected before they are purchased, and consumers need to check for expiration dates which are usually printed on the top, bottom, or on the side of the item.

The team is also trying to promote cleanliness around the territory, inspecting for debris and excess trash being dumped everywhere but in trash cans or dumpsters. He said they are encouraging families to keep their surrounding areas clean, for beautification purposes in preparation for the upcoming 10th Festival of Pacific Arts set to be hosted locally from July 20 - August 2. "We are enforcing the law," Aulava said, adding that their work, while it may seem like a hassle to many, aims to protect the residents of the territory.

Nearly a dozen ASG depts. and funding sources cut spending to start off the New Year

The Department of Education, Port Administration, Public Works, the Territorial Auditor's Office, the Public Defender's Office, Arts Council, Procurement, Elections, and the Public Market were the only ASG departments and agencies that cut their spending last month, compared to the same time last year. The other two funding sources named on the list include "funds transfers" and "miscellaneous."

Overall, the American Samoa Government spent more than it collected in local funds last month, compared to January 2007. This is according to the Treasury Monthly Financial Overview Report for local funds submitted to Governor Togiola Tulafono from ASG Treasurer Gaea Perefoti Failautusi.

According to the report, in January 2007, the government expended \$7,334,026 but last month, spending had increased to \$7,626,104

The only departments and funding sources that decreased their spending were:

SOURCE	2008	2007
Education	\$2,105,386	\$2,482,705
Port Administration	\$ 183,082	\$ 188,771
Public Works	\$ 415,786	\$ 477,210
Territorial Auditor's Office	\$ 11,641	\$ 12,058
Public Defender	\$ 21,240	\$ 26,342
Arts Council	\$ 2,154	\$ 3,084
Procurement	\$ 76,184	\$ 77,966
Elections	\$ 19,117	\$ 19,755
Public Market	\$ 12,059	\$ 12,936
Miscellaneous	\$ 117,838	\$ 201,651
Funds Transfers	\$ 312,760	\$ 326,854

The highest percent of increase in spending came from the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources which went from spending \$870 last January to \$11,926 last month, followed by the Office of Public Information (KVZK-TV) which increased its spending from \$85,737 in January 2007 to a whopping \$219,022 last month. Even the Office of Youth and Women's Affairs doubled their spending from \$5,836 last January to \$11,717 the same time this year.

The Golf Course increased its spending from \$47,367 last January to \$86,415 last month, while Legal Affairs bumped their spending up to \$209,292 last month compared to the \$162,922 they spent the same time last year.

Public Safety also increased its spending from \$455,016 in January 2007 to \$527,237 last month.

The Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA), the EPA, and the Airport didn't expend a cent in January of either this year or last year.

Dept. of Human Resources accepting registrations for Summer Youth Program

The Employee Development and Training Division of the Department of Human Resources is announcing the availability of slots for the Workforce in Action (WIA) Summer Youth Program.

The purpose of the program is to provide academics, occupational skills, and work experience for low-income individuals.

Interested applicants must be between 14-21 years old, unemployed, and economically disadvantaged.

The deadline for registration is April 5, 2008. Applicants are reminded to bring with them a passport or birth certificate, social security card, and check stubs of family members currently employed in their household. The documents are required and need to be on-hand during the registration process.

WIA center staff will be available to take registration forms at the Department of Human Resources, WIA Resources Center located on the second floor of the Executive Office Building (EOB) in Utulei. The schedule is as follows:

DATES	SCHOOL	PLACE	HOURS
March 24, 25, 26	Faga'itua & Tafuna HS	DHR WIA Center	3p.m. - 6p.m.
March 27, 28, 31	Fa'asao/Marist & Nu'uuli Polytech HS	DHR WIA Center	3p.m. - 6p.m.
April 1, 2	Leone HS	DHR WIA Center	3p.m. - 6p.m.
April 3, 4	Samoana HS	DHR WIA Center	3p.m. - 6p.m.
March 29, April 5	out of school youth, Private schools & elementary		9a.m. - 4p.m.

More information on how to register for the Summer Youth Program can be obtained by calling Makerita Enesi or Bert Thompson at the WIA Resources Center, Department of Human Resources at 633-4485, ext 277, 281, 282, 283.

Lt. Governor Ipulasi proclaims March as National Nutrition Month

Lt. Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia has proclaimed March as National Nutrition Month in the territory.

According to the proclamation, food is the substance, by which life is sustained, and the type, quality, and amount of food that individuals consume each day plays a vital role in their overall health and physical fitness.

Because of that, there is need for continuing education and a wide-scale effort to enhance good eating practices.

Special events have been planned to promote and celebrate National Nutrition Month.

Poster competition

The poster competition is for sixth graders beginning March 1 – 21.

To be eligible, interested youngsters must submit a poster related to the theme: “It’s a Matter of Fact.” Posters must be 8.5” x 11” with a colorful and eye-catching color scheme. Participants must be creative and use a variety of materials, and the posters must reflect enthusiasm and effort.

Entries must be submitted to the students’ school office before spring break.

More information on the poster contest can be obtained by calling 633-7223/5709/4616;

Fax 633-4617; or e-mail rositanui@yahoo.com or s_lameko@yahoo.com

Recipe competition

Everybody interested in whipping up a mouth watering dish that falls within the criteria is invited to participate in the recipe competition which runs from March 1 – 21 under the theme: “It’s a Matter of Fact.”

Interested individuals must submit recipes that include at least 3 vegetables including some dark green, leafy vegetables. Entrants may choose their own protein source like fish, chicken, tinned fish, tofu, etc...

Recipes must include the ingredients and measurements, including methodology which is step by step directions on how to prepare the meal. Recipe must serve 5 people, be nutritious, and cost effective.

There must be good presentation (attractive, colorful, etc.).

Entries may be on a 4x6 index card or paper, written or typed, including contact information (name, phone number, address). All entries need to be submitted to the DOH office of the ASCC Land Grant by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 20.

The top 5 entrants will be entered into the final competition which will be judged on March 28.

More information can be obtained by calling 633-7223/5709/4616;

Fax 633-4617; or e-mail rositanui@yahoo.com or s_lameko@yahoo.com

National Nutrition Month Events:

March 1 – Walk for your health 5:30 a.m. at the OMV track (weight and blood pressure measurements available)

March 2 – Opening prayer service at the Fagaalu CCCAS Church at 2 p.m. All members of the community are invited and strongly encouraged to attend.

March 3-7 – Nutrition education classes at the Food Stamp Office. On Friday, March 7 at 4 p.m., fun walk to Avau (east side starts from Fagaalu and west side starts from ASCC).

March 10-14 – Nutrition education classes in Manu’a. On Friday, March 14 at 4 p.m., fun walk to Avau (east side starts from Fagaalu and west side starts from ASCC).

March 20 – Recipe competition deadline. On Thursday, March 20 at 4 p.m., fun walk to Avau (east side starts from Fagaalu and west side starts from ASCC).

March 21 – Poster competition deadline.

March 28 – Awards ceremony. On Friday, March 28 at 4 p.m., fun walk to Avau (east side starts from Fagaalu and west side starts from ASCC).

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7

Saturdays @ 7a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124

March is American Red Cross Month

Lt. Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia has proclaimed March as American Red Cross month in the territory. "I commend the good work of the American Samoa Red Cross chapter, and I strongly encourage all citizens who are able to donate to the Red Cross," Ipulasi said. According to the proclamation, the American Red Cross, founded in 1881 by Clara Barton who selflessly devoted to the needs of humanity, is celebrating 85 years of service in the territory. Since 1923, the American Samoa Red Cross chapter has exemplified the characteristics of compassion, courage, character, and civic duty that are inherent in the American Red Cross mission, and vital to providing humanitarian services to communities across the territory.

The American Red Cross keeps military service members and their families in touch around the world; conducts international tracing and messaging; offers training in first aid, CPR, and other skills; and provides live saving blood across America to someone in need at an average of once every two seconds.

The local Red Cross preparedness depends upon a readily available supply of blood, disaster supplies well trained and enthusiastic volunteers, and the financial support of the people of American Samoa. These resources must be available at a moment's notice when a personal or family crisis strikes, or a natural, or man-made disaster occurs.

Ipulasi pointed out that the American Samoa Red Cross chapter met the needs of people affected by disasters in the past years offering food, clothing, shelter, mental health support, and referral services.

According to the proclamation, "March has been recognized as Red Cross Month nation-wide and is a time for Red Cross blood donors, financial supporters, and volunteers to renew their commitment to serving humanitarian interests in their community, across the nation, and around the world."

In recognition and celebration of the 85 years of presence in the territory of American Samoa, everyone is invited to participate in the following activities and training.

March 2 – Territorial Prayer Service

March 15 – Community BBQ

March 15 – Picathon for Red Cross

March 15 – Radiothon for Red Cross

March 20 – Red Cross Health and Safety Day

March 29 – The First Annual Red Cross Ball

COMMERCE COMMISSION

American Samoa Government
Executive Office Building, 2nd Floor
Pago Pago, AS 96799
Tel: 684.633.9411 ~ Fax: 684.633.9414

Togiola T.A. Tulafono
Governor


Faleseu Eliu Paopao
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENDED AGENCY ACTION

Pursuant ASCA Title 4, Chapter 10, Section 4.1001, et seq., and ASCA Sections 19.0103 and 19.0206, the Commerce Commission gives notice of intended action to amend the Title 19, Chapter 01, Section 19.0101, et seq., of the American Samoa Administrative Code, Transportation of Persons and Freight. The substance of the amendments includes:

- Establish new taxi rates and require posting of rates and photo ID of drivers.
- Prescribing uniform colors of taxis.
- Prohibiting tinted windows on commercial vehicles.
- Prohibiting smoking in taxis or busses.
- Prescribing minimum size for busses.
- Setting procedure for applying for a Certificate of Convenience.
- Renumbering Title 19, Chapter 01.

A full text copy of the proposed action can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Executive Office Building, 2nd Floor, during business hours. Interested persons may present data, views, and arguments, orally or in writing on or before March 28, 2008.


Faleseu Eliu Paopao, Chairman
Commerce Commission

Date: February 26, 2008



Public Notice of Intent

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) and the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) are proposing to amend the “Safe Drinking Water” regulations in Title 25 Chapter 4 of the American Samoa Administrative Code. The main points of proposed changes to the laws involve:

- Bottled water standards for local, on-island bottlers;
- American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) water treatment operators certification programs;
- ASEPA Water Quality Laboratory fees;
- General grammatical and formatting changes.

The proposed changes are available for review at the AS-EPA office in Utulei. The public may submit written comments about the proposed changes via email to ASEPAcomments@gmail.com or by mailing them to: Safe Drinking Water Comments, PO Box PPA, Pago Pago, AS 96799. A public hearing will be held at 10 AM on March 10, 2008 in the AS-EPA Conference Room for interested parties to present their comments in person to AS-EPA and EQC members.

Fa'asilasilaga Fa'alaua'itele

Ua i ai nei se talosaga mai le Ofisa O Puipuia Le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa (ASEPA) ma le Komisi Mo Le Mamā O Le Si'osi'omaga (EQC) e faia ni suiga i tulafono mo le “Suavai Taumafa Saogalemu,” Tulafono Fa'aulutalaina 25 Vaega 4 o le Tusi Tulafono a le Malo a Amerika Samoa. O mata'upu taua o le talosaga o lo'o fia suia i le tulafono e aofia ai:

- Tapula'a fa'atulagaina mo fagu vai o lo'o gaosia i Amerika Samoa;
- Polokalama e pasia ai le au faigaluega a le Malosi'aga Fa'a'etise ma Le Suavai (ASPA), i latou o lo'o gafa ma le fa'availa'auina o le suavai.
- Tupe totogi mo le Potu Su'esu'e a le ASEPA mo le Suavai Taumafa;
- Suia o le gagana ma le fa'ata'otoga o le tulafono mo le Suavai Taumafa.

O lenei talosaga o lo'o iai nei i le Ofisa o le AS-EPA i Utulei mo le mamalu o le atunu'u e mafai ona faitau ai. E mafai ona fa'ao'o atu tusitusiga uma mo lenei talosaga e ala atu i le imeli ASEPAcomments@gmail.com po o le pusa meli: Fa'amatalaga mo le Suavai Taumafa Saogalemu, PO Box PPA, Pago Pago, AS 96799. O le a faia se fono ia Mati 10, 2008 i le 10am mo le mamalu o le atunu'u ma i latou uma e fia saunoa ai i lea mata'upu i le potu fono a le ASEPA i Utulei.

PREL accepting applications for the annual Pacific Teacher Scholarships

The Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) has issued a statement announcing the acceptance of applications for the annual Pacific Teacher Scholarships (2008-2009).

Scholarship amounts range from \$750 to \$1,000 and are awarded to those who will be in their second, third, or fourth year of study in an accredited teacher preparation program.

The scholarship fund was created in 2004 with the goal of increasing the number of qualified teachers working in the US-affiliated Pacific.

Approximately twenty-three teachers in the region have already been awarded scholarships.

Eligibility is extended interested applicants who reside in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), or the Republic of Palau who intend to teach in a public school in the US-affiliated Pacific.

All completed applications must be received by the local PREL service center or the Honolulu office by April 1, 2008.

Interested individuals may apply at the local PREL service center (www.prel.org/contactPREL.aspx), or visit PREL's Pacific Teacher Scholarship website at www.prel.org/opportunities/pacific-teacher-scholarship.aspx where application forms and instructions on how to apply can be found.

ASG collects \$15K from auction

The American Samoa Government collected \$15,000 after hundreds of surveyed items from different government departments and agencies were auctioned off by the Office of Property Management last month.

According to Property Management deputy director Ino Vitale, the auction was a huge success, as all the items that were up for grabs completely sold out.

Property Management director Peleti Mauga explained in an earlier interview that although his office conducts the auction, they have nothing to do with the funds involved, as all the money is collected by designated Treasury Department representatives.

"The turnout was okay," Vitale reported. "The American Samoa Government managed to bank nearly \$15,000 on items that were declared to be in very poor condition and would have otherwise been thrown in the trash."

Vitale reported that most of the items that were sold were severely damaged and in very bad condition but people bought them anyway.

"This was a good way for the government to make some extra money," he said. "Who would ever think that selling these items, in the condition they were in, would bring in this kind of money?"

Items that were sold on an "as-is" basis included old office equipment like computers, desks, chairs, copiers, and vehicles. The automobiles were anything but perfect. Nonetheless, they sold fast because they were bought for parts.

Vitale said the auctioned off items may have been damaged but some of them, like vehicles and computers, had parts that could still be salvaged and re-used.

The next ASG public auction is tentatively set for later this year in June, although Vitale says it depends on whether or not a survey of items is conducted.

More Historical Notes:

On March 5, 1973, the Official Seal of American Samoa, bearing the motto "*Samoa Mnumua le Atua*" ("Samoa, Let God be First") was adopted by the 13th Territorial Legislature.

On March 6, 1899, Rear Admiral Albert Kautz, USN, arrived in Apia aboard USS *Philadelphia*, "with instructions to act in concert with a majority of the consular representatives of the three powers"

On March 6, 1942, Brigadier General Henry L. Larsen, USMC, was the first person to land at the Tafuna Air Base, which was not yet complete. As Commanding General of the Samoan Defense Group, he had received "secret orders dated 6 March 1942, which mandated 'strong mutually supporting defensive positions, consisting from East to West of the Islands of Strawstack [Tutuila], Strawhat [Upolu], and Strawman [Savai'i], with the outpost island to the northwest called Strawboard [Wallis Island].' The code name for the entire Samoan Defense Group was Straw."

On March 7, 1930, the final meeting between Western Samoa's Administrator, Colonel Stephen Allen, New Zealand's Defense Minister, Mr. John Cobbe and *Manu* leaders Malietoa Tanumafili I, Tupua Tamasese Mea'ole, Mata'afa Faumuina Fiaame Mulinu'u I and Tuimaleali'ifano Siu was held in Vaimoso. The *Manu* leaders presented a letter which contained a list of questions regarding the status of their petition to the League of Nations, and their dissatisfaction with Judge Luxford's verdict regarding the murder of Paramount Chief Tupua Tamasese Lealofi III on "Black Saturday"

On March 7, 1942, U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt informed England's Prime Minister Winston Churchill that "Samoa has been garrisoned and a U.S. pursuit [i.e. fighter] squadron has been sent to Suva. With the line from Samoa to Australia held, New Zealand in its retired position south thereof, is not thought to be in danger of serious attack."

On March 7, 1944, the remaining companies of the Seabees' 2nd Construction Battalion left Upolu and returned to the United States.

**FA'ASALALAUGA
FA'ALAU'ITELE**

E tusa ai ma le tulafono American Samoa Code Annotated ("ASCA") § 4.1004, e fa'asilasila atu ai i le mamalu o le atunu'u, o loo fuafua e le Ofisa o le Eletise ma le Vai (ASPA) o le a amata ia Aperila 2, 2008 ona faamamalu aiaiga fou. Ua faia ia aiaiga mo mita e mafai ona fuafua ai le faaoga felafoa'i o le eletise a le ASPA ma le eletise fa'anatura; ma o le a faamauina faatulafono i le American Samoa Administrative Code ("ASAC") § 12.06, e latalata ia Mati 11, 2008. O lena aiaiga e faasino i le faaogaina o mea faigaluega a le ASPA e faafesoota'i ai eletise fa'anatura i le va lelei ma ana paaga. E sapaapaia e le ASPA le fa'aogaina o tekonolosi mo le gaosiga o le eletise fa'anatura, ma ua faamautu ai nei aiaiga e faia ai faafesoota'iga i se ala aupitoa'i faigofie ma taugofie, ma puipuia ai mea faigaluega a le ASPA mai le fa'aleagaina.

E tusa ai ma le ASCA § 4.1020, e mafai ona silasila i le tulafono i taimi faigaluega masani o le ASPA i Satala. Soo se tasi e manatu iai, ia faao'o mai sou finagalo fa'aali poo sau faafinauga o suiga e ala i se tusitusiga e lafo mai i le meli pe tauaao mai i le tuatusi lena:

**American Samoa Power Authority
Attn: Michael Keyser, CEO
Satala Office
P.O. Box PPB
Pago Pago, AS 96799**

O le a faia fo'i se iloiloga o lena aiaiga mo tagata lautele i le Aso Tofi, Mati 6, 2008, i le 9:30 i le taeao e oo i le 12:30 i le aoauli i le potu fono o le ASPA Generation i Tafuna. O le a mafai ona faaulu mai ai e ala i tusitusiga poo saunoaga ni faamaumauga, manatu faaalai, poo faafinauga. O le a faamuta ai i lea aso le talia o ni tusitusiga. Ua fa'atulagaina e fa'amuta i le aso o lea iloiloga fa'alaua'itele. O tusitusiga ma saunoaga uma e faauluina mai i le ASPA o le a avea ma manatu faala'ua'itele ma faaopoopo i pepa faamaumauina o le fauina o le tulafono.

**Puleaga a le Ofisa o le Uila
ma le Vai**